

--- “Series of 1883” - Twenty Pounds - Black - COUPON Stamps ---

Chris Ryan reports in the “Canadian Revenue Newsletter”, No. 41, of March 2003, that the twenty pound denomination was one of the original Series introduced on July 1st 1883, and thus it was initially printed on vertical mesh *block wmkd* paper.

The catalogue lists the recess printed twenty pound black “Series of 1883” COUPON stamps as follows:

RM-259c - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *block wmkd* vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls, *long wreath*, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an **188**_ stub

RM-259 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls, *long wreath*, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an **188**_ stub

RM-261 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. blue controls, *short wreath*, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an **189**_ stub

3rd BABN Contract - (1878-1886)	John McKay records as ‘delivered’ 418,750 copies of “20 lb. Black Coupon” printed by hand press.
4th BABN Contract - (1886-1892)	John McKay records as ‘delivered’ 748,250 copies of “20 lb. Black Coupon” = 369,605 by hand press + 378,645 by rotary press
5th BABN Contract - (1892-1897)	John McKay records as ‘delivered’ 827,445 copies of “20 lb. Black Coupon” = 110,160 by hand press + 716,840 by rotary press
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	John McKay records as ‘delivered’ 179,630 copies of “20 lb. Black Coupon” printed by rotary press

These final copies, actually printed under the **5th BABN Contract**, had remained in stock when BABN lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were available to the Inland Revenue Department while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and the printing of the “Series of 1897”.

Total printed was 898,515 by hand press + 1,275,115 by rotary press = 2,173,630

--- The “theoretical” control number range on the 20 pound black Coupon stamp ---

3rd BABN Contract - (1878-1886)	418,750	- 000001 to 418750
4th BABN Contract - (1886-1892)	748,250	- 418751 to 1-167000
5th BABN Contract - (1892-1897)	827,445	- 1-167001 to 1-994000
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	179,630	- 1-994001 to 2-173630
	2,173,630	

--- The “actual” control number range on the 20 pound black Coupon stamp, as recorded to date ---

20 lb., black, on <i>block wmkd</i> wove paper, with 4 mm. controls	- 003434 to 051318
20 lb., black, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove paper, with 4 mm. controls	- 530262 to 889890
20 lb., black, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove paper, with 5 mm. controls	- 1-146003 to 2-085368

In this period, BABN did not run their control sequence past six digits, and when reaching **999999** simply began anew at **000001** (their successor ABN used the same system). I have affixed a leading “1-”, “2-” into the control numbers in an attempt to separate the BABN printings. It wasn’t until they finally began the P-strips of Series “C” in 1935 that they introduced the leading letter “A”, “B”, etc. to successive control number sequences. This process was an offshoot, taken from the BABN “Series of 1868” cigar strips, where BABN actually inscribed the “million prefix” as a large central **A**, **B** or **C** on their master dies.

--- RM-259c - Twenty Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Black - 3rd BABN Contract - 1883-86 ---

--- Recess printed on *block wmkd vertical* mesh wove - with 4 mm. Montreal blue controls ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus ten ½ pound coupons, and an *188_* stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *long wreath* around the Queen’s portrait - scanned at 200% scale ---



The catalogue lists this recess printed twenty pound black “Series of 1883” COUPON stamp as follows:

RM-259c - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *block wmkd* vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls,
long wreath, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an *188_* stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 20 pound black Coupon stamp ---

3rd BABN Contract - (1878-1886) 418,750 - **000001** to **418750**



★**RM-259c** - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, with 4 mm. control number **003434**,
on *block wmkd* vertical mesh wove, with an unreadable cancellation - *long wreath* - at 70% scale

003434 ★

RM-259c

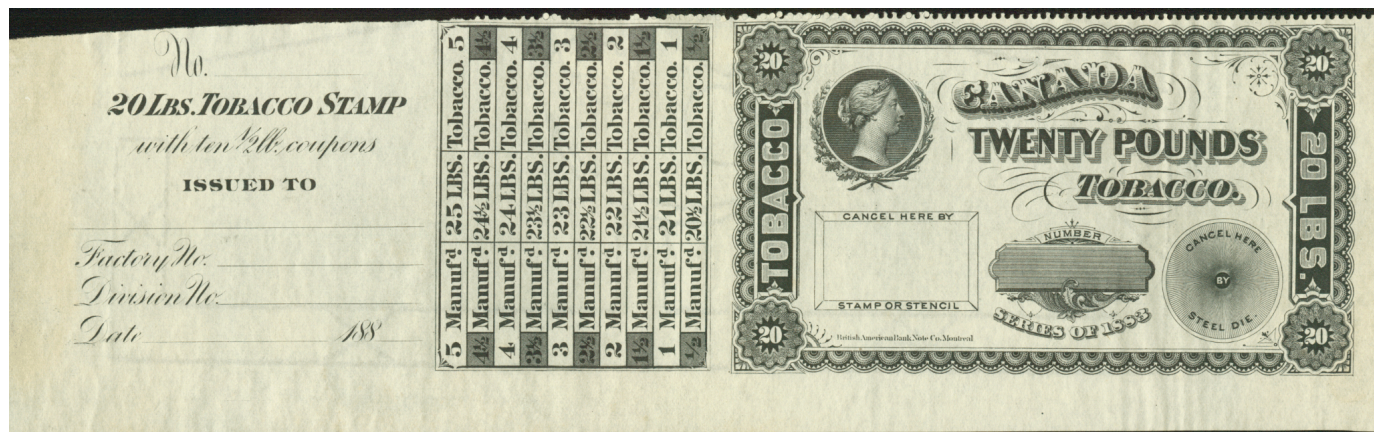
20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on *block wmkd* wove,
with a remnant of a ‘Bonded Removal Permit’ stamp underneath



★RM-259c - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, with 4 mm. control number **051318**, on *block wmkd* vertical mesh wove, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 1-3** by “A. McKenna Tobacco”, in Pictou, Nova Scotia - at 70% scale

051318 ★	RM-259c	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 22 pounds, on <i>block wmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-3
112001	RM-259c	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 23 pounds, on <i>block wmkd</i> wove, Stamped CANCELLED

--- without control numbering ---



★RM-259n - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWCS, *without* control numbers, on *block wmkd* vertical mesh wove, with ten 1/2 pound coupons, and an **188**_ stub

--- Twenty Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Black - 3rd BABN Contract - 1883-86 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. *violet Gothic controls* ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus nine ½ pound coupons - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *long wreath* around the Queen’s portrait ---

The Lee Broom catalogue should list this recess printed twenty pound black “Series of 1883” COUPON stamp as follows:

20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. *violet Gothic controls*
long wreath with nine ½ pound coupons

The control numbers are purely arbitrary, and are not part of the regular control sequence.



★ 20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWC, with violet 4 mm. Gothic control **3897412**,
long wreath, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove

All of the stamps bearing 4 mm. Gothic *violet control numbers* seem to come from the “Series of 1883”. In a similar parallel, all of the stamps with 5 mm. Roman light blue controls seem to come from the “Series of 1880-81”. I feel that these were prepared by BABN for Philatelic Exhibitions in 1880-81, and in the mid-1880’s. Some examples are found on *block wmkd* paper, which indicates that they originated in 1883-84.

There are a couple dozen examples in the collection most of which came from the “Ferrari” collection purchased from Erling van Dam. None of the other stamps in the “Ferrari” collection dated from later than 1900. Possibly they are taken from special “presentation” sets prepared for prominent philatelists.

--- RM-259 - Twenty Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Black - 4th BABN Contract - 1886-92 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. Montreal control numbers ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus ten ½ pound coupons, and an *188*_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *long wreath* around the Queen’s portrait ---

The catalogue lists this recess printed twenty pound black “Series of 1883” COUPON stamp as follows:

RM-259 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls,
long wreath, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an *188*_ stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 20 pound black Coupon stamp ---

4th BABN Contract - (1886-1892)

748,250

- **418751** to 1-**167000**



★RM-259 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWCS, with 4 mm. Montreal control **520262**,
on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with ten 1/2 pound coupons, and an *188*_ stub

520257	RM-259	20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove
520262 ★	RM-259	20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWCS, on <i>unwmkd</i> <u>horizontal</u> mesh wove, with the stub dated <i>188</i> _
548057	RM-259	20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove, CWC, roller cancelled by Tobacco Merchant TOBACCO / M-4
671582	RM-259	20 pounds, black, perf 12, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove, clipped at 22 pounds, with an unreadable violet cancellation
768347 ★	RM-259	20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> <u>vertical</u> mesh wove, clipped at 22 pounds, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17
889890	RM-259	20 pounds, black, perf 12, CWC, on <i>unwmkd</i> horizontal mesh wove, clipped at 21 pounds, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 2-8

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★RM-259 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 22 pounds, with 4 mm. control number **768347**, *long wreath*, recess printed on *unwmkd* vertical mesh wove

★RR-12 - “Bonded Removal Permit” CADDY stamp **157759** (both scanned at 70% scale) - removed from underneath the above, perf 14, both were roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 1-17** by “W. C. Macdonald” in Montreal, P.Q.

Question: Is the difference in the orientation of the paper mesh (horizontal / vertical) due to the printing process of hand press vs. rotary press?

Many of these control numbers have been copied from eBay, and I have not inspected the stamps. I have no doubt that the *block wmkd* stamps were printed under the **3rd BABN Contract** (since they are dated), but many of the *unwmkd* copies could have come from the **4th BABN Contract**, from the **5th BABN Contract** (or from its **5th ABN Supplement**) after the total had exceeded one million stamps. One would have to inspect the copies as to mesh (the early *unwmkd* stamps exhibited a vertical mesh) and to further separate them by cancellations, where possible. John McKay actually separates his *recess printed* copies into “hand press” and “steam press” - which I take to mean “rotary press”. As can be noted, especially on the long P-strips, those from the “rotary press” are longer (due to the bent plate) by up to 5 mm. on the longer P-strips. It should be possible, by careful measuring, to separate the 1883 Coupon M-stamps into these *two* recess printed categories.

Note: In 1887, acquiescing to the terms of the 4th Contract, BABN returned their operations from Montreal to Ottawa. The control numbers went from the Montreal standard of 4 mm. to the Ottawa applied 5 mm. Since many of the sheets had been control numbered in Montreal prior to the switch in location, the 5 mm. Ottawa control numbers will start midway through the 4th BABN Contract (1887-1892) - i.e. around **999999**.

--- without control numbering ---



★RM-259n - 20 pound s, black, perf 12, CWCS, without control numbering, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with ten 1/2 pound coupons, and an **188_** stub

--- RM-259 PP - Twenty Pounds - "Series of 1883" - Black - 5th BABN Contract - 1892-97 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh heavy wove - without control numbers ---

--- Imperforate - 115 x 62 mm. plus ten ½ pound coupons, and an 189_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *long wreath* around the Queen's portrait ---

The catalogue lists the recess printed twenty pound black "Series of 1883" COUPON stamps as follows:

RM-259 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls,
long wreath, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an 188_ stub



★RM-259 PP - 20 pounds, black, CWC, without control numbering,
long wreath - plate proof on heavy wove paper - scanned at 70% scale



★RM-259 PP - 20 pounds, black, CWCS, without controls, plate proof on heavy wove paper,
long wreath - with ten 1/2 pound coupons, and an 189_ stub - scanned at 60% scale



★RM-259 PP / CP - 20 pounds, black, CWCS, without controls, plate proof on heavy wove paper - scanned at 60% scale
long wreath - with ten 1/2 pound coupons, and an 189_ stub, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic

--- RM-261 - Twenty Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Black - 5th BABN Contract - 1892-97 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with 5 mm. Ottawa control numbers ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus ten ½ pound coupons, and an *189*_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *short wreath* around the Queen’s portrait - scanned at 200% scale ---



The catalogue lists the recess printed twenty pound black “Series of 1883” COUPON stamps as follows:

RM-261 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. blue controls,
short wreath, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an *189*_ stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 20 pound black Coupon stamp ---

5th BABN Contract - (1892-1897)

827,445

- 1-**167001** to 1-**994000**

The collection *does not contain* a copy to illustrate.

1- 146003	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17
1- 246508	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17
1- 359883	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / F-26
1- 851077	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-8
1- 913387	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17
1- 933574	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17
1- 935890	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17

--- RM-261 - Twenty Pounds - “Series of 1883” - Black - 5th ABN Supplement - 1897-98 ---

--- Recess printed on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove - with 5 mm. Ottawa control numbers ---

--- Perf 12 - 115 x 62 mm. plus ten ½ pound coupons, and an 189_ stub - scanned at 70% scale ---

--- With the *short wreath* around the Queen’s portrait ---

The catalogue lists the recess printed twenty pound black “Series of 1883” COUPON stamps as follows:

RM-261 - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, with 5 mm. blue controls,
short wreath, with ten ½ pound coupons, and an 189_ stub

--- The “theoretical” control number range on this 20 pound black Coupon stamp ---

5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898) 179,630 - 1-994001 to 2-173630



★ **RM-261** - 20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, with 5 mm. control number 2-077029,
on *unwmkd* horizontal mesh wove, from the 5th ABN Supplement,
short wreath, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / 1-17** by “W. C. Macdonald” in Montreal, P.Q.

2-077029★	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17
2-085368	RM-261	20 pounds, black, perf 12, clipped at 21½ pounds, on <i>unwmkd</i> wove, roller cancelled TOBACCO / 1-17

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